

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



June 7, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

TO: Distribution

FROM: LS01/William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employee with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend an STS-117 Pre-Launch Reception and Launch Viewing Co-sponsored by NASA and NASA Contractors

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Mr. David A. King, MSFC Center Director, has been invited to attend a pre-launch reception and viewing of the STS-117 launch co-sponsored by NASA, the United Space Alliance, Lockheed Martin, Honeywell, Jacobs Engineering, The Boeing Company, SAIC, ATK Thiokol, Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, and Ball Aerospace. The event will be held on Friday, June 8, 2007, beginning at 6:15 p.m. in Building OSB-II on the Kennedy Space Center grounds.

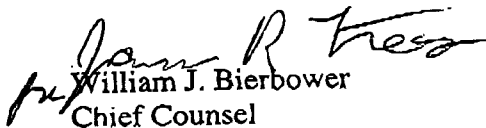
This event will be a widely-attended gathering of representatives from industry, the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government, state officials, and NASA and other Federal employees. The industry co-sponsors will be providing food and beverages at a cost of approximately \$37 per person and approximately 350 individuals are expected to attend. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g)(2).

The individual attending this event has duties that may substantially affect the interests of the industry co-sponsors. I have determined that free attendance of this senior official at the event is in the interests of the Agency because it will allow him to discuss the Vision for Space Exploration, the Space Shuttle program, and the STS-117 mission with the other attendees. This event is co-sponsored by NASA and the attendance of this senior NASA employee at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with national, state, and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information concerning its activities.

Given the purpose of the event, the alignment of the event's interests with NASA's, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having this senior institutional and project leader attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence him in the performance of his duties.

Accordingly, Mr. King may accept free attendance at the event. He may also accept invitations for his spouse or other guest. Free attendance by employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors is addressed in a separate NASA Headquarters determination.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at 256-544-0012.


William J. Bierbower
Chief Counsel